(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) This Ministry is primarily concerned with development of National Highways only and all other roads fall within the purview of the respective State Govts. As regards National Highways, the VIIIth Five year Plan provides for two laning in 1350 Kms and four laning in about 650 Kms. However, its implementation will depend upon the availability of resources.

(d) and (e) Mostly four laning of National Highways is being undertaken under various externally aided programmes, in the last several years. About 1000 Kms of four laning has already been taken up under these programmes.

**Compulsory Registration of Marriages**

1122. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to review its stand on bringing new legislation requiring compulsory registration of all marriages in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the legislation is likely to be ready for bringing before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

**Jain Commission of Inquiry**

1123. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Justice M.C. Jain Inquiry Commission has repeatedly criticised Government for not cooperating with Commission as reported in "Times of India", dated 1st July, 1996 and

(b) if so, the details of reaction taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) This News-item has come to the notice of the Government. Government is extending full-cooperation to the Jain Commission of Inquiry.

**Multipurpose Hydel Projects**

1124. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of multi-purpose hydel projects approved by the Central Government;

(b) the number of projects where the construction is going on;

(c) the number of projects under dispute alongwith the reasons therefor and the number of projects delayed due to other reasons;

(d) whether it is a fact that hydel power is the cheapest power; the steps Government propose to take to exploit hydel resources to provide cheaper power to the people; and

(e) whether Government plan to take measures to check agitations which hinder projects and damage national interests and national development?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Eight Multipurpose Hydel Projects have been approved by the Central Government.

(b) Construction is going on in all projects except one *i.e.* Lakhwar Vyasi Project.

(c) The following projects have been under dispute or delayed due to some other reasons.

| Sl. No. | Name of Project | Capacity (MW) | Under Dispute/Reasons for delay |
|---|---|---|---|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) |
| 1. | Sardar Sarovar (Gujarat, MP, Maharashtra & Rajasthan) | 16 x 200+5x50 = 1450 MW | Restriction on the raising of the dam height due to Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) problems. |
| 2. | Tehri HPP Stg. I (Govt. of India & UP) | 4 x 250 = 1000 MW | Uttarkhand agitation & also agitation by Shri Sunderlal Bahuguna. |
| 3. | Upper Indravati(Orissa) | 4 x 150 = 600 MW | Fund Constrainst. |
| 4. | Ranjit Sagar(Punjab) | 4 x 150 = 600 MW | Fund problem and poor progress of work. |
| 5. | Bansagar Tons (M.P.) | 3 x 105 + 2 x 15 + 3 x 20 = 405 MW | Land acquisition problems and R&R problems. |
| 6. | Rajghat (UP & MP) | 3 x 15 = 45 MW | Fund constrainst. |
| 7. | Indira Sagar (MP) | 8 x 125 = 1000 MW | Fund constraints & R & R problems. |
| 8. | Lakhwar Vyasi (UP) | 3 x 100 + 2 x 60 = 420 MW | Fund constraints. |

(d) On account of low recurring costs, energy generation from Hydel Projects is normally considered cheaper than other modes of energy generation. The special measures taken by the Government towards harnessing the hydro-potential are as under:—(i) Modification in the financial, administrative and legal procedures to attract private investment.(ii) Creation of Central/Joint Sector Corporations.(iii) Increase in outlay for the development of hydro projects in the country. (iv) Increase in budgetary allocation for Central/Joint Sector Projects under the Ministry of Power. (v) Arranging funds for hydel projects through external assistance.

(e) The Government tries to amicably settle the differences by holding discussions with the leaders of the agitationists.

**Change in Telecom Policy**

1125. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there will be no major change in the telecom policy of the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any objective to provide basic telephone and value added telecom services to the people at reasonable cost;

(c) if so, whether any concrete proposal for implementing the telecom policy has been undertaken; and

(d) the details of the same and by when the telecom policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No Major change in the National Telecom Policy is at present, under consideration of the Government.

(b) As per the policy, basic telephone services as well as Value added services are to be provided at reasonable and affordable cost.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) As per the policy, provision of Basic Telephone Services is to be opened to the private sector also. Letter of Intent for 10 Circles have already been issued to various bidders for providing Basic Telephone Service. The private operators are to provide services within one year of the issue of the licence to them.

The Cellular Mobile Telephone Service is available in four Metro cities *i.e.* Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay and Madras by two private operators in each city. Further, the tenders were invited for operating Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in each Territorial Telecom Circle. 27 licences for operating Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in 18 Circles out of 20 Circles have already been issued. Licences